

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The typographical error at page 5, line 4 has been corrected as requested.

The indication of allowable subject matter at claims 3 and 4 is appreciatively noted. Since the limitations of dependent claim 3 have now been incorporated in independent claim 1, it is assumed that all claims are now in allowable condition.

The rejection of claims 1, 6, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being made "obvious" based on Mukaidani '394 in view of Harris '857 is respectfully traversed. However, since this ground of rejection has now been mooted by the above amendment, it is not believed necessary at this time to provide detailed reasons for such traversal.

The rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103, claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103 and claims 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103 are all also respectfully traversed. However, as all of these grounds of rejection have now been mooted, it is not believed necessary to explain further detailed reasons for such traversal at this time.

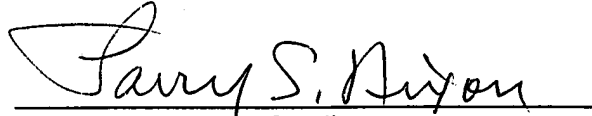
Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

KOBA et al.
Appl. No. 10/645,667
March 24, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Larry S. Nixon", written over a horizontal line.

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